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*“Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your law. I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me. My soul breaks with longing for your judgments at all times. You rebuke the proud...the cursed, who stray from Your commandments. Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies. Princes also sit and speak against me”.* Psalm 119:17-23

The psalmist now gives his strong reasons why the Lord should so bountifully deal with him that he might live and keep God’s word.

He is God’s servant. “Lord, you have an interest in this. I live for you, and if you would get glory from me, so deal with me that my life may prosper to your glory.” It is not that we are such big assets to God, but that God Himself has chosen us to serve Him. May He now prosper us in that.

We have blind eyes that need opening. This is a common affliction from which none of us are exempt. Without God’s grace we are blind to sin, its exceeding wickedness, its evil, its horrendous offense to God, and its injury to creation. We are blind to our slavery to it, its delusion and deception. We cannot see its awful penalty, which must, and will, be paid!

We are blind to Satan and his demons, the enemy of our souls. The world is filled with their work, and we are oblivious to them, letting them have their way in our lives and with our stewardship.

We are blind to God, His glory and majesty. When we think of Him we cannot see Him as He is. We are blind to Christ, our Redeemer, Substitute, to His salvation, His deliverance, His abounding grace and glory, His willingness to save and make us heirs with Him.

We are blind to our lostness, ruin, to eternal punishment, our imminent deserving of these things, our personal indescribable wickedness, and our utter inability to help ourselves.

The psalmist is especially anxious to be able to see those wonderful things in God’s word. Here we are with Bibles open before us, and its wonders are unseen to our eyes. Things new, unexpected, unthinkable, beyond anything we have experienced or could imagine lie therein. Things of great beauty, grand, unsearchably wide and glorious, await our eyes. Things that invoke awe, reverence, that close our mouths and humble us at the feet our Creator and Redeemer, may be found.

We need to be dealt with bountifully because we are strangers in the earth. We have been born of another country, flourish in a different culture, speak a different language, see, hear, sense, feel, entirely differently from people of this world. We live in as different an element as fish from the sea and birds from the air. We simply do not fit into the system of this world. Therefore we are under reproach and contempt from the world at all times. The prayer is that such may not intimidate us, that we should be bold and unashamed of our peculiarity. “Princes of the earth” (The power brokers, the “establishment”) disapprove us, slander us and rail against us.

May God’s commandments, His will in all things not be hidden from us. May God be not silent when we seek His guidance. We are not competent to

find it. He is imminently able to unveil it to us.

Especially, may we be delivered from pernicious pride. We have been humbled in initial repentance and faith. We have often been humbled in subsequent experiences in grace. We are repeatedly warned that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. And we know that we have nothing to boast in. Nevertheless, that subtle thief, that liar and accuser, many times comes to us as the flatterer. Egotistical flesh is quick to listen to him and wallow in self-congratulation and illusions of merit and personal excellence. We are shocked to reality when we realize that pride's cursedness has carried us away from God's word, His law, and distanced our heart from the warmth and joy of His fellowship.

Our soul hungers and thirsts, longs for the word of God. Left without it we are broken, crushed, useless, and we mope about listlessly. Oh, may God so deal with me that His word will come to my soul and, there by His Spirit, spring forth as rivers of living waters.

- C. M.